

(belt #4A)

CLERK: Mr. President, we have a pending motion from Senator Stahmer to place LB973 on General File.

PRESIDENT: If that is the order of....prior to that Senator Stahmer wants to point a personal privilege then 973, your motion is in order.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body, point a personal privilege. I would like to have the privilege of asking my daughter to come and sit by my side, if that is alright.

PRESIDENT: You would wait till I got in the Chair on a rule like that. I'll allow it, but I don't know what the rule is and you can....we will let it go and when you have a full time person up here.....I'm not....alright, 973.

CLERK: Read motion regarding 973.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body I'm going to try to be brief, I know that we have a lot of work and this is the only motion of this type that I intend to make this year but I would like to have 973 considered for placement on General File not withstanding the action of the education committee and I will so move that that be done and then I will give a brief explanation and I hope that the debate too will be brief because I know that you are busy. First of all I would like to suggest that it is my intention that LB973 if you will grant my request and place it on General File it is my intent to offer an amendment to the bill putting up to the citizens living within the Omaha School District and District 66 an item on the ballot and let them vote whether they wish to have those two school districts become one as the city of Omaha was from 1889 until 1948. I think that this is a key issue and I wish that the members would play close attention because I don't think that there is an education issue in the state that is anymore important than this issue. I think that it even transcends the state-aid. I would like to start out by saying that first of all when I took this bill before the education committee opponents said that if we were to merge school districts you would be creating a district that is too large. I would like to point out merely that by combining these two districts we would have in effect a district only one-seventh larger than it is now, and that would be equivalent to adding seven members to this unicameral body. In other words going from forty-nine to fifty-six. I do not consider this to be a large increase or any significant increase at all. I would like to say that opponents of this measure suggested why hurt good schools. Yet, no testimony has ever shown that this would indeed hurt the school districts involved but would in fact lead to better schools for all. I suggest that this is what would happen. I would like to further point out that as matters now stand, that I circulated on your desk a piece of information that was mailed to me by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce containing data that was gathered by the University of Nebraska at Omaha showing the decline that if you look at this sheet you have a vertical line 42nd street. It shows the population decline professional type people east of 42nd street. From 30% in one part and 32% in another. In other words over 60% of the professional people at one time lived east of 42nd. That is now to a mere 18%. Where are